



NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

NEWS RELEASE

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State Health Officer Terry Dwelle Receives National Public Health Association's Top Honor

BISMARCK, N.D. – North Dakota State Health Officer Terry L. Dwelle, M.D., M.P.H.T.M., recently received the 2008 McCormack Award from the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) at the organization's national conference.

Established in 1950 to honor the late Arthur T. McCormack, a Kentucky State Health Official, the McCormack Award is a national award presented each year to a public health official who has demonstrated excellence in public health and has made a significant contribution to the knowledge and practice of the field.

“Dr. Terry Dwelle very much deserves to win this award,” said Governor John Hoeven. “More importantly, he has won the respect and gratitude of the people of North Dakota for his leadership in safeguarding and improving the health of all North Dakotans.”

Dr. Dwelle was appointed as state health officer of North Dakota by Governor Hoeven in October 2001. Previously, Dr. Dwelle served as chief medical officer for the department. Under Dr. Dwelle's leadership, the North Dakota Department of Health has developed innovative approaches to address public health issues; for example:

- Establishing the Healthy North Dakota initiative, which works with partners across the state to inspire and support the people of North Dakota to improve their physical, mental and emotional health.
- Developing public/private partnerships to address the management of disease, which may lead to a template for disease management across the nation.
- Working with private health-care providers, local public health units, Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota and the University of North Dakota to design and implement the PROtect ND Kids immunization program.

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- Strengthening public health's relationship with private health-care providers across the state by serving as a resource and consulting on health issues.
- Advancing the quality of public health services by developing a university-level public health curriculum and by assisting in the development of national public health certification standards.
- Focusing on community engagement, which works with schools, communities, worksites, faith-based organizations and other groups to improve health and address risky behaviors.
- Working with local, state and international partners to develop a community engagement program in Ghana.

Before joining the Department of Health, Dr. Dwelle worked with the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences and the Indian Health Service. In addition, Dr. Dwelle headed development of the Community Health Evangelism Program in East Africa, where he served as a medical missionary.

"Terry is a former officer of ASTHO and through the years has graciously given of himself and his staff to support the needs of state public health," said ASTHO Executive Director Paul Jarris, M.D., M.B.A.

In all, Dr. Dwelle has served on the ASTHO Executive Committee for nearly five years and has participated on various policy committees, such as preparedness and infectious disease. Dr. Dwelle has also stepped forward as a mentor for new colleagues, both formally and informally.

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials is the national nonprofit organization representing the state and territorial public health agencies of the United States, the U.S. Territories, and the District of Columbia. ASTHO members, the chief health officials of these jurisdictions, are dedicated to formulating and influencing sound public health policy and to assuring excellence in state-based public health practice.

For more information, contact Loreeta Canton or Stacy Eberl, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.2372.

Please note: A high-resolution photograph of Dr. Dwelle is available for downloading at www.ndhan.gov/media/media/.

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